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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON U.S. TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORTS,
JANUARY 6, 2005

1. Op-ed by Carlos A. Medina in Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" on 1/6, titled "The U.S. needs friends." "The world has come together to assist our fellow people in Asia, which has represented a commendable gesture of human solidarity."

"Right after the tsunami, President Bush offered 25 million dollars in assistance but when some European countries gave two or three times as much and Japan offered 500 million dollars, Secretary of State Colin Powell announced the U.S. would give 350 million dollars."

"The American people are characterized by their aggressiveness and their humanity in times of need. However, the latter strength doesn't overcome the collective fierceness that may have made them great, but has caused them to be despised by the peoples of the world."

"If the U.S. would spend a third of its war budget to help poor countries escape from underdevelopment through technological support or aid in health and education, the world would truly see it as a leader and a friend, not as a feared country others have to kneel down to in order to survive."

"Most Hondurans, some because they have to and others because they have studied there, have a positive attitude toward the U.S., and that sign of friendship and admiration should be returned with respect and support to Honduras."

"There's nothing more to say but to remind the people and government of the U.S. that their great country needs more friends, not more enemies, and that friends are made with true gestures of good will just as enemies can be created by extreme aggression that doesn't do [the Americans] any good."

2. The San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "Tiempo" published an untitled cartoon on 1/5 in which the U.S. is portrayed as an overweight Uncle Sam with two pipes going from his pockets. On his right side, a pipe called "For the War" is constantly pumping dollar bills into his pockets and shows a large stack of bills set aside for this purpose. On the other hand, on his left side, a pipe called "For Aid" has only three bills coming out and shows a person with his hands outstretched.

Palmer